



Armed Liners Will Get No Warning, Says Bernstorff

SHONTS AIDED BY PHILOSOPHY FOILS INQUIRY

Says Quality Ruled All
His "Commitments"
and "Obligations."

\$2,000,000 HID
IN WORD MAZE

Stevens Praised—Morgans
in Subway Deal Were
People on the Corner.

In his explanation of his use of the words "commitments" and "obligations," Theodore P. Shonts, by one of the cleverest strokes ever delivered at an inquirer, emerged triumphant from yesterday's grilling before the Thompson committee. While a triumph for Shonts, it was far from a triumph for Senator Thompson and his associates. And when it was over, the high priced and distinguished counsel, Delancey Nicoll and John B. Stanchfield, who have never left the side of their client, leaned back in their chairs and breathed freely. So did Shonts. Shonts, with a flow of words which is poured out almost breathlessly for a space of ten minutes, undermined the carefully planned programme of the committee. He was asked to describe the talk he had with the late Gardner M. Lane in his private office.

"Commitments and Obligations."

It was during this talk, according to George W. Young, the financier, that Shonts said that the \$2,000,000 profits from the Stevens contract would not go to either Stevens or himself, but would be used to pay off "certain commitments and obligations" Shonts incurred in bringing about the signing of the dual railway contracts.

Young testified that Lane called him to the New York office following the special meeting of the Interborough directors, when Shonts tried to put through the Stevens contract, and told him what Shonts is alleged to have said. Young made a memorandum of his conversation with Lane, which was introduced in evidence.

Shonts admitted that Young testified to and which he incorporated in his memorandum, except the reference to the \$2,000,000. He did use, he admitted, the words "commitments" and "obligations," but only as an explanation of his philosophy of life. Here is how Mr. Shonts said he used the words:

"I have but one rule of life, and that is that every obligation that I made and every commitment I ever made is to the basis of quality and price being equal before I recognized a friend."

Inquisition Due To-day.

But Mr. Colby hopes to destroy Mr. Shonts' masterpiece when the Interborough head resumes the stand this morning by bringing out the singularity of everything that Mr. Lane is alleged to have told Mr. Young being true except the one thing that loomed to above all else.

It was after this special meeting that Mr. Lane went to J. P. Morgan, Jr., and talked to him about the Stevens contract. Then followed action by Mr. Morgan which ended the activities of Mr. Shonts for his friend Mr. Stevens.

Before Mr. Shonts resumed the stand yesterday Senator Thompson showed his displeasure with the testimony of the witness on the preceding day. He charged him with being evasive and trying to shield certain men.

Mr. Shonts in his testimony denied that Morgan & Co. and Thomas F. Ryan dominated the Interborough. Mr. Colby took a different view of it, declaring that the record showed an ascending note of dominance of the house of Morgan in the company's affairs.

Mr. Colby introduced the alleged \$2,000,000 slash fund talk a few minutes before adjournment. He first asked Mr. Shonts if he knew Mr. Lane. Mr. Shonts said he had known him twelve or fifteen years. Answering other questions, he said Mr. Lane was a member of the Boston representatives of J. P. Morgan & Co., Lee Higginson & Co., was universally respected, and a man of the very highest type.

Other preliminary questions brought out the special meeting of June 24, 1913, when Mr. Shonts tried to put through the Stevens contract, but was blocked by Mr. Lane's opposition. William A. Reed, the New York financier, also objected to the contract, and the Mr. Shonts admitted, made it somewhat unpleasant for him in the meeting. The resignations of Mr. Reed and Mr. Lane following this Interborough meeting, Mr. Shonts said, could not be explained by him.

He was then asked who John F. Stevens was. He answered that Stevens was well known in his profession, having worked seventeen years for James J. Hill; that he had built the Great Northern over the Rockies; and that he was found guilty of having served under Mr. Shonts in Pan-

Caruso Tells Farrar He'll Quit If She's Rough in "Carmen"

Slapped in Face, Informs Prima Donna After Performance
Her Movie Tactics Must Cease if He's to
Appear with Her Again.

That slap-dash, furniture wrecking realism that made Geraldine Farrar's progress through filmland a triumphal march before adoring movie fans will not be viewed upon the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House again. Those who saw it in real life, when she appeared as Carmen Thursday night, may well treasure the soul-stirring acting, for she will not exhibit that same abandon when next she assumes the role.

If realism calls for a slap on the face such as would fall on an ordinary man, if it demands that an innocent and hard-working chorus girl be dragged about the stage until she is on the verge of hysteria, or that a star struggle as well in the clutch of a hold-up man—well, Caruso doesn't care to appear as Don José to Mme. Farrar-Tellegen's Carmen.

Moreover, it became known yesterday, he made this announcement in no uncertain terms to the new Mrs. Tellegen at the conclusion of Thursday night's blood-stirring performance of "Carmen."

In the first act the additional realism that Mme. Farrar-Tellegen is credited with accumulating in the movies was apparent. Her open-handed slap on Caruso's face awakened strange echoes in the opera house and caused blasé operagoers to sit up and take notice.

In the course of the second act the stage business calls for an encounter between Carmen and a cigarette girl, a part taken by a heretofore unoffend-

ing member of the chorus. But Mme. Tellegen seized this opportunity of grabbing the astounded chorus girl and wiping the floor with her. No complete and final was the chastisement that the chorus girl wondered whether she would ever again be in fit condition to appear in a part.

But the real climax came in the third act fight scene. Ordinarily a well ordered Carmen is supposed to pretend to resist Don José in this scene, but in such a manner as not to call for any remarkable exhibition of strength. In this instance, however, Carmen resisted so vigorously and stubbornly that Caruso was compelled to use his entire strength to protect himself.

When Caruso concluded the embrace he had his revenge. He released the struggling Mme. Farrar-Tellegen, so suddenly and violently that she slipped and suddenly assumed a sitting posture. The impact indicated that the performance could hardly have been painless.

But, whatever the arrangement may be, it is reported by those who were present, Mme. Farrar-Tellegen was in none too composed a frame of mind. Neither was Caruso, for that matter.

"Please remember, madam, that you are not in the movies, but in the Metropolitan Opera House," he said, placing one hand upon his smarting cheek.

"Well, if you don't like my Carmen you can get somebody else to play it," was the prompt retort.

"No; we wouldn't think of doing that," replied the ever courteous Caruso. "We can prevent a repetition of such scenes by getting another Don José."

"The election of the arrangement may be, it is certain that no repetition of the realism of Thursday night will be permitted."

MRS. SANGER FREE
WILL STILL FIGHT

Birth Control Advocates
Learn She Won't
Face Trial.

Advocates of birth control had just completed their defenses for a last stand for their militant leader, Mrs. Margaret Sanger, accused of sending improper matter through the mails, when need for their well developed plans was suddenly wiped out last night.

The Margaret Sanger defence committee was in the midst of a meeting at the home of Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes when a telephone message was received in which it was announced that she would not be compelled to face trial.

The two-year-old indictment against Mrs. Sanger had been dismissed by Federal Judge Dayton.

Harried inquiries revealed that after the numerous postponements that have prevented the case from coming into court Assistant District Attorney Connelley decided that there was at least a reasonable doubt regarding the guilt of the birth control advocate.

He went before Judge Dayton, explained that "The Woman Rebel," Mrs. Sanger's magazine, had not been placed in the mails for two years; that Mrs. Sanger there were many reasons for questioning whether she ever had had criminal intent in sending her propaganda through the mails.

On the strength of these arguments Judge Dayton quashed the indictments. Mrs. Sanger then found herself in the peculiar position of having escaped so much as a trial for writing and sending through the mails literature that caused her husband, William Sanger, to be sentenced to thirty days in jail for the simple act of handing one of the offending documents to a visitor at his office.

When these facts reached the committee its members were in the midst of a plan for a big demonstration to-morrow night at the Bandbox Theatre. The original purpose of the gathering was to call attention to the fact that Mrs. Sanger was about to become a martyr for the cause of birth control.

But when it became evident that Mrs. Sanger would not become a martyr, would not appear as her own lawyer, would not read her own defence from her own documents, the programme was changed. The meeting will be held to-morrow night, but as a jubilation only, and Mrs. Sanger and many of the women who aided her in preparing her defence will speak, according to guarded announcements made last night.

Mr. Stokes, who is active in arranging the demonstration, said the plans would be announced to-day. Until then she could give no further information.

Yesterday's action by the government is expected to result in a renewal of the campaign for birth control, that was at its height two years ago, when Mrs. Sanger was indicted following complaints made by Anthony Comstock. Mrs. Sanger immediately fled to Europe and escaped trial for several months.

But the vice crusader was informed that her propaganda was being carried abroad despite her absence. A detective was sent to the office of her husband, anarchist-architect, and a story of plans by Socialists to translate the arguments for birth control into foreign languages was told. After lengthy explanations the detective asked for a copy of the original matter sent out by Mrs. Sanger. The husband handed it to him and forgot the transaction until he was arrested, charged with distributing improper matter.

Mr. Sanger appeared in Special Sessions and argued his own case with such effect that he was found guilty and sentenced to spend thirty days in jail.

MARJORIE'S BATTLESHIP.



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To the Editor of The Tribune.
Dear Sir: I read in your paper every morning a lot about preparedness. My grandpa and great-grandpa were soldiers. If I was a boy I would be a soldier, too. But I am not, so I want to do what I can to help. Mama gives me a dime every week for helping her. I am sending you this week's dime to help build a battleship for Uncle Sam. I know a lot of other kids who would give their errand money if you would start a fund. I am thirteen years old and go to Public School 9, Brooklyn. Yours truly,
MARJORIE STERRETT.
I am true blue American, and I want to see Uncle Sam prepared to lick all creation like John Paul Jones did.
P. S.—Please call the battleship America.

Since this letter was printed dimes and dollars have been poured into the fund. Other papers across the country have reprinted the letter and the dollars have flowed in upon them.

Marjorie has asked The Tribune to take care of her fund until it grows big enough to build a battleship or at least some kind of a ship worthy of the traditions of John Paul Jones. The Tribune cannot undertake to enter into correspondence about the fund, but it will print a daily list of contributors, and every one who sends a dime or a dollar or a million dollars to The Tribune for the fund will receive a button bearing the legend "U. S. America." That will be your receipt for a patriotic deed.

ADMIRAL SIGSBEE A MARJORIE AID

Maine Hero Will Get Navy
Dimes, While '98 Vets
Swing Army.

Marjorie Sterrett is going to have the navy's help in raising the fund for her battleship, if Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee, in command of the Maine when she was blown up in Havana Harbor, has anything to say about it.

She is going to have the army's help, too, if the United States War Veterans of the Department of New York have any influence with their active comrades.

At the Maine memorial meeting of the Guy V. Henry Camp, No. 38, held on Thursday night at the headquarters, 200 East Forty-fifth Street, Admiral Sigsbee was the guest of honor. When Bernhardt Wall, past department commander of the order, made an appeal to those present for the battleship fund, the admiral was the first to contribute. In less than ten minutes Adjutant T. J. O'Donnell had collected \$5.80 from those present.

Admiral Sigsbee had just been talking of the bravery of the men of the Maine on that fatal night, eighteen years ago, when the appeal was made. Later James F. Court, past commander of Old Guard Camp, No. 19, spoke on defence and preparedness, especially urging a bigger navy. Adjutant Zimmerman, of Rice Post, G. A. R., told some personal experiences in the Civil War.

Before leaving Admiral Sigsbee placed a floral wreath on the Maine Memorial tablet, made from one of the Maine's guns. The members stated that other Spanish War Veterans camps all over the country without doubt would contribute liberally to Marjorie's fund.

Has the coupon man descended on your school yet? If he hasn't, watch for him bright and early Monday morning, or perhaps as you get out of school Monday afternoon. He is the fellow who has 500,000—yes, half a million—coupons in his pockets, each of which, with a dime, will admit a school boy or girl to the Park Theatre, Fifty-ninth Street and Columbus Circle, any afternoon until February 27, to see the motion picture spectacle "Defence or Tribute," which tells what has happened to nations unprepared for war since the dawn of history.

Starting with the days when Julius Caesar divided all Gaul into three parts and then gobbled up all three, the film shows in graphic succession the un-

der of the world.

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PARIS REJECTS PEACE OFFER, LONDON HEARS

Kaiser Told Alsace-
Lorraine Must First
Be Restored.

GERMAN UNREST
SEEN GROWING

British Parliament to Dis-
cuss Peace Proposals
for First Time.

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER.
(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 18.—Unofficially Germany is exceedingly busy just now sounding sentiment regarding peace among the Allies. Feelers are being sent out to practically all countries except Great Britain.

From a reliable source I learn that unofficial overtures have been made to France within the last fortnight, but these have led nowhere. It is said that France replied unofficially that she would make no separate peace under any circumstances and that when the time came for peace she would insist on Alsace-Lorraine being turned over to her. Germany's unofficial offer included a withdrawal from France and Belgium and the payment of an indemnity sufficient to repair the war's damages through invasion.

These frequent and persistent rumors are exciting much speculation here, for they are taken to mean that Germany's internal situation is far from being as rosy as her military position would indicate.

It is argued that small military gains no longer serve to divert the popular mind from the financial and economic pinch, and unless the government can encourage the people by a spectacular offensive of material advantage it must openly announce that it wants to discuss the question of peace.

The fact that peace is to be discussed in Parliament next week may be taken as significant or not, according to one's interpretation of the country's spirit. Both George F. Trevelyan and Arthur Ponsonby, Liberal members, have announced that they will interrogate the government as to the terms under which it would be willing to discuss peace.

Part of Lorraine Offered
if Paris Would End War

(By Telegram to The Tribune.)

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Paul Scott Mower, "The Daily News" correspondent at Paris, sends this dispatch:

"I have reason to believe that Germany has made new peace proposals to the Entente Allies. The report is that Germany has declared its willingness to reestablish generally the status before the war, to cede part of Lorraine to France and to guarantee autonomy for Alsace."

"As to the terms offered on the other fronts, I myself have no information. I understand that the proposals were accompanied with the threat that Germany would again attempt to crush France if the terms were refused. It is possible that these proposals were immediately and indignantly rejected by the Allies."

"There is a general feeling in Europe that Germany desires peace. Messages from Switzerland assure me that every one in that conveniently situated neutral state is convinced that this feeling is justified. Swiss military experts believe there is a grave dissension in the German General Staff as to what course the Central Powers should pursue."

"Troops have been transferred from one front to another quite aimlessly and preparations have been made for attacks that have never been delivered, all giving indication of restless confusion of orders. The war will be decided, according to Swiss opinion, on the French and Russian fronts, not elsewhere."

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BERLIN DENIES NEW U-BOAT ORDER HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Berlin, Feb. 18 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The newspapers to-day publish a New York dispatch which says that the torpedoing of armed merchantmen under Germany's recent memorandum, which was to become effective on February 29, has been postponed until April.

The Foreign Office says that no such order has been given and that it is unable to explain the dispatch except on the conjecture that the American government is asking delay. No request for a delay has yet been received here.

What Can Wilson Now Bid to Gain Lusitania Victory?

"Armed Merchantmen" Note, Now Repudiated, First
Price for Concessions That Would Furnish
Political Capital for Administration.

By FRANK H. SIMONDS.
(By Telegram to The Tribune.)

Washington, Feb. 18.—Was the "armed merchantmen" note of the Wilson Administration, now repudiated, its last bid for the long-sought "diplomatic victory" in the Lusitania discussion? This is the question that most interests Washington to-night, and in it is found the sole explanation for the latest and most complete double somersault of the State Department.

The United States had steadfastly adhered to the familiar practice in the matter of armed merchantmen both before and since the war began, the practice recognized by international law and precedent. Suddenly it changed about and served notice upon belligerents not merely that it would be a good thing if existing laws and practices could be modified by common consent of all contestants, but that the United States was seriously considering modifying them itself. It not merely suggested in many paragraphs, it threatened in one.

What was the result? On January 29 the "humanity note" about armed merchantmen was made public. Six days later Germany delivered the Lusitania note, the last, final, ultimate expression of German generosity in the matter of murdered Americans. It was "almost" satisfactory. Four days later Mr. Lansing and Mr. Bernstorff agreed on an amendment. There was to be more than an "inferential disavowal." Germany was going to recognize responsibility. This magnanimity was a natural consequence of the "humanity note."

SHOCK TO ADMINISTRATION.

Next day, however, Berlin announced that following the principle laid down by the American "humanity note" Germany would begin on March 1 to sink all armed merchantmen on sight. This was a shock to the Wilson Administration. Evidently Germany meant to get her pay in advance. She had not yet consented to "recognize," but she was hastening to put the American note to good Teutonic uses.

Five days later Germany was ready to pay. Her acceptance of the Lansing-Bernstorff amendment was indicated in a communication that arrived on February 15, and forthwith all Washington dispatches broke

Continued on page 7, column 2

ASQUITH TO ASK \$2,000,000,000 CREDIT

Will Bring Total War Cost to
\$10,000,000,000.

London, Feb. 18.—New votes of credit amounting to approximately \$2,000,000,000 will be asked by Premier Asquith of the House of Commons on Monday. The new votes will bring up the total of war appropriations to \$10,000,000,000.

ARMENIANS SLAIN BEFORE ERZERUM FELL

Kurds Turned Loose to Slaughter
Helpless Population.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 18.—Thousands of Armenians in Erzerum were massacred by the Turks and Kurds before the fall of the Caucasian fortress to the Russians, a semi-official Petrograd report announces to-night.

Many more Armenians were driven before the Turks as they evacuated the city, and were either killed in the flight or left to die in the heavy snows on the mountains.

EXPLOSION KILLS FOUR IN MUNITIONS PLANT

Many Injured at Split Rock Pic-
nic Acid Works.

Syracuse, Feb. 18.—Four persons were killed, at least a dozen others injured, some seriously, and heavy property damage was caused by an explosion to-night in the Split Rock plant of the Semet-Solway Company.

The plant, which was developed since the outbreak of the European war, is one of the largest in the country engaged in the manufacture of picric acid, used in explosives and synthetic dyes. It has been heavily guarded day and night.

The cause of the explosion has not been ascertained.

POPE BENEDICT ILL FROM GRIP

Prelate Refuses, However, to
Give Up His Audiences.

Rome, Feb. 18.—Pope Benedict for the last two weeks has been suffering from a slight attack of grip. Until to-day it was known only in Vatican circles that he was indisposed. He has shown great courage and fortitude in continuing his audiences almost without interruption.

His physicians were unable to persuade the Pope to remain in his room and to cancel appointments, as he was unwilling to disappoint his callers.

DENIES NEW ORDER BREAKS ARABIC PLEDGE

Assurance Applied to
Unarmed Ships Only,
Asserts Ambassador

CONSULS TOLD
OF U. S. STAND

Sweden Warns Her Sub-
jects to Keep Off Threat-
ened Vessels.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Feb. 18.—Ambassador von Bernstorff sent a long cable message to his government to-day, reporting his conversation of yesterday with Secretary Lansing and asking that his arguments in the Lusitania case be officially confirmed.

The ambassador reported that he gave Secretary Lansing the following outline of the probable reply of the German government to the Secretary's charge that the submarine assurances had been nullified by the recent German memorandum:

"First—The assurances given the United States after the Arabic was sunk, that no more 'liners' would be sunk without warning and provision for the safety of non-combatants, are still valid. Ambassador von Bernstorff declared that the assurances were never intended to apply to armed vessels.

"Second—Germany has never been asked by the United States for assurances that armed vessels would not be attacked without warning. The American note of May 13, to which Secretary Lansing points as a clear statement of the American demands, said:

"The lives of non-combatants cannot lawfully or rightfully be put in jeopardy by the capture or destruction of an unarmed merchantman."

"Third—Any assurances that the United States now seeks regarding the conduct of submarines toward armed vessels should be treated separately, and not confused with the Lusitania case, which concerned unarmed vessels exclusively.

No Reason for Discussion.

"Fourth—The two governments have no practical reason for discussing the status of armed merchantmen at this time, as all vessels in the North Atlantic trade, entering or leaving American ports, are unarmed, and the likelihood of American citizens being on other ships is inconceivable.

"Fifth—Granting, for the sake of argument, that the question of armed vessels does enter into the Lusitania discussion, the United States has admitted that arms on merchant ships are presumptively for offensive action unless evidence is adduced to the contrary. No such evidence exists in the case of the armed vessels of any of the belligerents, but, on the contrary, there are cases on record in which merchantmen have attacked submarines, and the secret orders of the British Admiralty to British shipmasters make it clear that guns are not mounted on British ships for defensive action."

Secretary Lansing's replies to all these arguments are also reported in the ambassador's cable message. It is understood. It is apparent, however, that Germany's plan now is to prolong the discussion on these legal points, and the German government is therefore expected to pre-empt its case in the form outlined, knowing in advance what the attitude of this government will be.

There is as yet no suggestion at the State Department as to what means will be employed, if any, to force Germany to an early compliance with the American demands. A month ago, when President Wilson was touring the West, statements given out here in official quarters declared that no more delays would be tolerated, but that some form of coercion would be used if Germany tried to temporize further.

Lansing Outlines United States Views.

Secretary Lansing to-day sent a circular to all ambassadors and ministers of the United States, outlining the views of this government on the arming of merchantmen. He pointed out that the right to arm for self-defense was recognized in international law and that unless there was an agreement among the belligerents to suspend the law this government must recognize it during the remainder of the present war. He also indicated the character of the evidence that might be admitted to prove that armament was intended for defense only.

The Secretary's purpose in sending

Exclusive War Pictures

Through exclusive arrangement with the French Minister of War, The New York Tribune has secured the rights in the United States to publish the official French war photographs—taken by army photographers for filing in the archives of France. The first in this important series appears to-morrow in The Graphic Picture Section.

They are the sort of pictures that are obtainable through no other channel. They are far out of the ordinary—but so is the whole to-page Graphic Section! Get it to-morrow. Your news-dealer will reserve your copy if you speak to him to-day.

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